

The Director of Central Intelligence

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National Intelligence Council

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Just a note to thank you for taking the time to chat with me yesterday. I enjoyed myself, and I even managed to learn a couple of things. On the whole, I share your pessimism. But we should not ignore the extraordinary opportunities that now lie before us, in particular regarding the Soviet Union. You're right that the Soviet economy will never perform very well. I would add that the Soviet Union's inability to join in the transformation from industrial-based societies to knowledge-based societies brings a new dimension to the US-Soviet relationship. If we could only use our leverage--for example, technology--we could in a very short time put ourselves beyond the Soviet Union's grasp. A perception would take hold that the Soviet Union will not, in fact, displace the US as the world's preeminent superpower. And the results of this perception taking hold would be monumental. In a very real sense, we are now at a key junction: either we will put ourselves beyond the Soviet Union's grasp, or we will fail to do so and thus assure that the Cold War continues but with the initiative shifting away from ourselves.

I hope that for once you are wrong, but I have an awful feeling that your judgments will be proven correct.

Again, it was good to see you.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert E. Meyer  
Vice Chairman